

# The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN



The Official Publication of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago. Est 1904  
SEPTEMBER 2025



*National Sports & Family Day*  
*PCTT Archives at 50*

# THE MODERATOR SPEAKS

PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE



## Let Us Build Together:

### A Call for Unity, Compassion, and Purpose in Education

As results from the various levels of national examinations — SEA, CSEC, CAPE, Tertiary and others — continue to roll in, emotions are high. Across the country, we witness scenes of joy, relief, and celebration. Students are being congratulated, parents are rejoicing, and communities are sharing in the triumphs. For many, this season feels like the reward for months — and in some cases, years — of sacrifice and hard work. Quiet whispers suggest that private lessons may have played a vital role, yet regardless of the path taken, success has come and it deserves recognition.

But success wears many faces.

While we rightfully celebrate those who have excelled, let us also pause to honour the silent victories — the student who moved from a failing grade to a passing one; the child who, against personal or social adversity, simply showed up for the exam; the teen who did not pass, but refused to give up. Each of these stories is a testament to perseverance, and each deserves our encouragement and respect.

Let us be reminded of God's view of worth. In 1 Samuel 16:7, the Lord says, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." God honours effort, faith, and the unseen battles fought in private.

We must also acknowledge that not every child received a certificate or a grade they had hoped for. Some faced internal storms — anxiety, broken homes, financial burdens, learning difficulties — that made academic success seem out of reach. And yet, they too are deserving of love, guidance, and opportunity. Romans 12:15 urges us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." In other words, we must celebrate, yes — but also comfort and uplift those who feel left behind.

As a new academic year dawns for primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions, we stand at the threshold of fresh possibilities. This moment invites us — students, parents, teachers, principals, churches, community leaders and government — to unite in a shared purpose: the holistic development of our nation's children.

Earlier in this column, it was stated that "education breaks the shackles of poverty." That truth still holds. Education is a path to empowerment, freedom, and dignity. But education alone cannot shield our youth from a society that feels unsafe, unstable, and often, unjust. We see the effects daily — students afraid to go to school, teachers discouraged by hostility, parents overwhelmed by the pressures of life.

This is where the Church and moral leaders must rise. Just as Proverbs 22:6 encourages us to "Train up a child in the way he should go," we must partner with families and schools to cultivate moral character, resilience, and faith. This is not the responsibility of educators alone. It is a collective mission.

In the eyes of God, every child carries promise. Every individual has been uniquely gifted, as 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Some may be academically inclined, others artistic, athletic, entrepreneurial, or service-driven. All are valuable. All are needed.

Let us also remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." May we never become so focused on achievements that we fail to see the hurting, the struggling, the left-out child who needs a kind word or a helping hand.

We can no longer afford to operate in silos. Parents cannot carry the burden alone. Neither can teachers, nor the students themselves. We must bind together as one people — Trinidad and Tobago — to sow seeds of unity, healing, peace, and moral courage. The environment of learning must become a place of safety, not fear; of encouragement, not comparison.

Let this new academic year, 2025–2026, be one that marks a turning point. Let it be a year where we prioritize mental and emotional well-being, alongside academic excellence. A year in which integrity is modelled, where the weak are supported, and where love leads the way.

Let us not only build schools — let us build a society where every child, no matter their circumstance or ability, has the chance to thrive.

May God grant us wisdom, compassion, and courage, and may He bless all stakeholders — students, educators, parents, policymakers, and communities — as we rise to the sacred task of shaping the next generation.



# FROM THE DESK OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

PCTT GENERAL SECRETARY,  
PRESIDING ELDER MR. ASHFORD D TAMBY



## Mission-Driven Leadership, Spirit-Led Stewardship

*Acts 20:28 – “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.”*

In the Church's life, leadership and stewardship are not distinct roles; they are integral aspects of God's Kingdom. Mission-driven leadership begins with a clear understanding that our purpose is not self-made but Spirit-given. We lead not for recognition but to fulfil the mission of God—making disciples, serving the marginalised, and glorifying Christ in all we do.

Yet leadership without stewardship risks becoming self-serving. That is why Spirit-led stewardship is essential. Stewardship reminds us that all we have—our time, talents, resources, and even our influence—belongs to God. As leaders, we are entrusted with these gifts to care for His people, to use resources wisely, and to build up the Body of Christ. We are called to be shepherds who lead with integrity, humility, and a heart for service.

When leaders are mission-driven, they anchor every action, decision, and ministry initiative in the overarching purpose of God's Kingdom. They measure success not by personal achievement, numbers, or recognition, but by faithfulness to Christ's command to make disciples and serve the least of these. Their vision is shaped by Scripture, prayer, and a heart for God's people, ensuring that leadership is never about personal agendas but about advancing the Gospel.

When they are Spirit-led stewards, they understand that all resources—whether financial, human, or spiritual—are sacred trusts from God. They handle these gifts with humility, accountability, and discernment, seeking the Spirit's guidance in their distribution and use. This includes nurturing the gifts in others, creating opportunities for service, and ensuring that missions are sustainable and Christ-centered. They do not see stewardship as merely maintaining what exists but as cultivating growth and multiplying blessings for future generations.

When we combine these qualities—being focused on the mission and guided by the Spirit—we create leadership that is honest, builds trust, brings people together, and spreads the Gospel with courage and good judgement. As we observe Stewardship Month during September, let us showcase these qualities as leaders within our churches, ever mindful that everything we do, we do it for the glory of God.

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## PCTT CHANNELS



# PCTT NATIONAL SPORTS & FAMILY DAY 2025

By Mr. Ronald Mootoo- Chairman of NSC, Mrs. Rumonia Drepaulsingh- Secretary NSC, Presiding Elder, Dr. Dianme Phillip-Ramjattan

On behalf of the Synod, the National Sports Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago hosted its **49th National Sports and Family Day on Saturday 9th August, 2025**, at Skinner Park, San Fernando.

Praise and thanks to Almighty God that, despite the blessing of early morning showers, His grace and love shone through into a bright, sun-filled day. From East, West, North, and South, members of our twenty-four Pastoral Regions journeyed to the venue for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and true Presbyterian love and unity.

## Opening Ceremony

Rev. Letra Jacob, Chairperson of the South Central Presbytery and Minister of the Susamachar Pastoral Region lead in the opening prayer. The National Anthem was rendered on steel pan by Student Minister Brandon Paul. The Athletes' Oath was delivered by Dkoda Hunt of the Princes Town Pastoral Region, winners of the 2024 overall championship.

The event was officially declared open by the Moderator of Synod, Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance. At this time, the ceremonial cauldron, symbolizing Jesus as the Light of the World, was lit by Mr. Marvin Rampersad of the Diamond Pastoral Region, creator and donor of the torch. This year the torch, carried by Mr. Robert Sagar, led the March Past Parade.

## March Past Parade & Saluting Party

The March Past Parade was a spectacle of colour and precision. Teams, outfitted in vibrant uniforms, showcased weeks of dedicated practice as they saluted at the reviewing stand and impressed the crowd with their marching skills.

Taking the salute were:

- **Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance** – Moderator of Synod
- **Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby** – General Secretary of Synod
- **Rev. Letra Jacob** – Minister of Susamachar Pastoral Region
- **Dr. Michael Dowlat** – Minister of Education & Member of Parliament for San Fernando West
- **Mr. Ronald Mootoo** – Chairperson, National Sports Committee

## Greetings from Dignitaries

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance described the day as “a fantastic occasion where the twenty-four Pastoral Regions of our Church gather for fun, fellowship, and camaraderie —renewing past acquaintances and forging lasting friendships.”

- Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby reflected “Today is more than games—it is a testament to our commitment to holistic well-being, intergenerational connection, and the vibrant tapestry of our faith and heritage.”
- Mr. Ronald Mootoo, NSC Chairperson, noted that the event is “a celebration of community, faith, and unity—reminding us that true victory lies not only in winning but in the togetherness, prayer, and unity we share in Christ.”
- Dr. Michael Dowlat shared his proud Presbyterian heritage, encouraging participants to embrace both education and sport as pathways to a healthy and purposeful life.

## Results & Highlights

- **March Past Parade** – Chaguanas Pastoral Region
- **Tug of War** –Tableland Pastoral Region
- **Overall Games Champion** – Penal Pastoral Region
- **Spirit of the Games Trophy** – Tableland Pastoral Region

In addition to sporting events, BOYA and Beth Rapha, led by Ms. Stephanie Sam and Reverend Dr. Keron Khellawan, provided free health checks, educational materials, and outreach activities in keeping with the Church's mission of holistic care.

## Special Thanks

The 2025–2027 National Sports Committee extends heartfelt thanks to:

- His Worship the Mayor of San Fernando, Mr. Robert Parris, the San Fernando City Corporation, and the Skinner Park management team.
- The Moderator, General Secretary, Ministers, Church Workers, and members of all Pastoral Regions.
- SATC Principal and Staff.
- PCTT Communications Unit and the Sohan family for media services.
- The South West Regional Health Authority, medical personnel, and ambulance services.
- Dr. Ramona Sankar and Team , Medical Personnels
- First Naparima Sea Scouts Troop and the Scouts Association.
- Trophy donors past and present.
- Event officials led by Mr. Milton Patrick Siboo.
- Mr. Vincent Ramkhelawan, Sports Booklet designer.
- Organizers and supporters of the Car Photo Quest and Treasure Hunt held on July 5th, 2025.

## Looking Ahead

As we embrace our theme — Playing, Praying, and Staying Together — we look forward to the 50th Anniversary of the PCTT National Sports and Family Day in 2026.

**God's richest blessings** to all, as together we continue to work faithfully in the Master's service.







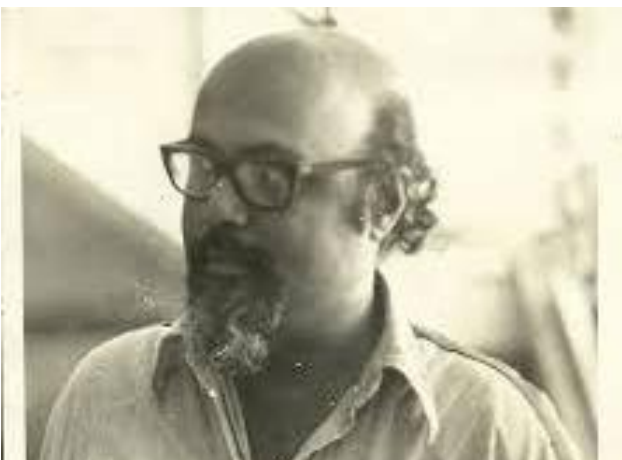
# PCTT ARCHIVES AT 50

By Asst Archivist Hilton Siboo

The Archives of the PCTT (CAPCTT) observes, and celebrates its physical establishment dated September 15, 1975. As stated by the former and only archivist, Reverend Kenneth K. Kalloo, this occurred following a casual discussion with the then principal of SATC Reverend Idris Hamid whose institution inherited all physical infrastructure – including buildings and furniture, etc. after the Naparima Teachers' Training College (NTTC) was terminated by Government, after having been established in 1894 and having served Trinidad and Tobago. The Archives was in the library of NTTC, where today it currently remains, overflowing at its seams.

With not even a single leaf of paper or document at that time, the challenge was to source all archival records of the PCTT and located them at that space. With the sources identified the journeying began from the office of the Principal SATC, from Kemp House and from the relics of the NTTC and from wherever materials could be unearthed. Assistance came from the then National Youth coordinator Milton P. Siboo and several unnamed youths from the Oropouche Pastoral Region. Over the last fifty years, the graciousness of contributors alive or posthumously have greatly benefitted the institution.

Looking back at timelines of development, credit must be given to Ms Elma Inman, Canadian Mission lady educator, who proposed a church archive in 1957. However, it was not until 1961 that an 'Archives and Historical Committee' was set up by the newly constituted Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Grenada (PCTG), with Rev Roy G Neehall as Chair.



Rev. Idris Hamid

Other members of the committee were Rev AC Dayfoot, Rev JWM Kirkpatrick, Rev JC McDonald, Mr David Mahabir and Cornelius Debi. Mr CB Kalloo was coopted to collect, classify and caption the items and artefacts, many of which are in the Archives today. At this time, plans were already being formulated for the Centenary of 1968. It was envisaged that a grand exhibition of artefacts depicting successes and achievements of preceding generations. Despite the magnitude and excellent display this did not engender an archives' repository. In 1971, a new archives committee came into being with Rev Harold Sitahal as chairman and Rev Ken K. Kalloo as secretary, others included Mrs Ruth Sitahal, Mr Ken Boodoo, Dr Brinsley Samaroo and Rev A C Dayfoot. With no permanent home by October 4, 1971 the committee by motion unanimously agreed 'that the archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago be placed in the custody of the University of the West Indies. Despite correspondence no decisive action was forthcoming.

Then came July 1975 and the closing of the Naparima Teachers' Training College, and the availability of the library space for the Archives of the PCTT. The secretary continued the work 'of building up the holding' to 1981 after which it was in the charge of the SATC.

From 2000 to 2006, the contribution of Rev Geraldine Reid, Canadian missionary and former first lady Moderator, especially as regards digitising cannot be undervalued. She was assisted by Rev Randall Sammah, Chair of the committee, Ms Kathleen Kassiram, Secretary, and Mrs Indra Debysingh, library asst, SATC.



Rev. Ken K Kalloo

# PCTT ARCHIVES AT 50

By Asst Archivist Hilton Siboo

In 2005, Rev Kalloo was 'invited to assist and in December was appointed 'Archivist' a position he held until his resignation as of December 31, 2023. During this time, reorganization to make it more useful took place – as per collection of materials and artefacts; classification and filing; availability for study and research some of which has been published in the Trinidad Presbyterian.

The mainly voluntary archives committee under Rev Kalloo has established links with the National Archives of TT, NALIS and the Indo- Caribbean Indian Museum of Waterloo, Trinidad.

Since 2013 the voluntary efforts of Hilton Bill Siboo began to significantly impact the operations and systemising of the Archives

With the archives committee three "Bookbinding and Repairs course were completed conducted by Rev Kalloo and Hilton Siboo (appointed Asst Archivist 2020).

From 2020 an archives development plan to 2025 including the Archives Committee addressed the following - Accommodation, constitution, human resources, digitising, IT, funding, all of which are at differing stages of consideration by the Synod, remembering the Archives is under the charge of Synod as is the Archives committee of Synod which in 2023 was first made an official standing committee of Synod.



Asst Archivist - Mr Hilton Bill Siboo

The 2025 - 2026 Archives Committee elected /appointed by Synod includes,

Chairman - Mr Terrance Warde

Secretary - Mrs Donna Partap

Members -

Rev Letra Jacob and Rev Bjorn Warde

Mr Harry Partap

Asst Archivist - Mr Hilton Bill Siboo

Continuous Volunteer assistants since 2019 include Sharon Bassarath, Linda Seebaran, Christine Siboo, Jasmine and Rosalind Mootoo [Deceased 2024]

For the commemoration of 2025 the following activities are to be noted:

A thanksgiving service at SATC chapel on September 28, 2025

Publication of 'Presbyterian Firsts' by Rev Ken Kalloo.



Original Naparima Teacher Training College(NTTC) 1920's



Former NTTC, Currently SATC Library and PCTT Archives

  
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# THE FAMILY CAN

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)  
THE PILGRIMAGE OF PARENTING: [part 15] - ANGER and AGGRESSION PART 15 A

In this series, the approach established that parenting is a relationship between the 'parenter' and the 'parentee'. This month we consider - Can Anger and Aggression be Parented, even when the 'parentee' may not always be a young child? Anger and Aggression are not the same though both are associated with rage, fear, defiance, or retreat. Anger can result in aggression. How can the 'parenter' parent - Anger Management Skills of the 'parentee'? First, what is Anger and Aggression?

**Anger** is a psychological state [Myers] which can be viewed from six perspectives - biological, psychoanalytic, behavioural, humanistic, cognitive and socio-cultural... each being a useful way that can explain anger differently. **Who gets angry**... we all do... children get angry, parents get angry, we each get angry with others in places of work, play, public spaces, church, school, home, the roads, the playparks, at times even angry with ourselves.

**Aggression** [Myers] 'is any physical or verbal behaviour intended to hurt or destroy, whether done out of hostility or a calculated means to an end' that can result in conflicts, hostility, assaults and murder. **Why anger and aggression** - it is the response to stimuli from someone's misdeed, wilful, unjustified and unavoidable actions, by their words and voice, attitudes and actions, etc. as well as any frustrating, stressful and toxic environment. Biological factors influencing aggression include genetics, physiology and survival instincts... accidents and incidents resulting from neural, head and brain injuries; biochemicals and intoxication by alcohol and drug use that impacts hormones and testosterone, resulting in delinquency, bullying, child and domestic abuse. The inability to achieve goals and control also causes frustration which creates anger and generates aggression. Rewards and punishment can foster aggression to the child who learns to model the aggressive behaviour of adults and parents. Viewing aggression and violence on television, movies, mass and social media desensitizes inhibitions and validates imitation of physical, sexual, verbal and psychological [maladaptive] attitudes and reactions.

When someone's behaviour affects our thoughts and emotions, is our reaction anger? Do we lash or hit out, become abusive, violent even 'feel to kill'. Do we vent positively or stifle it internally until it festers then explodes. Anger is a human response to stimulus that is unacceptable and painful to our senses. Anger fuels aggression, which is often regretted. Reactions to anger can be adaptive assertion not maladaptive aggression.

**Don't lose faith. Hold strong. Believe, The Family Can**

## Encountering ....the Archives of PCTT

'KNOW THE CAPCTT' SERIES FOR 2025 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Archives of the PCTT (CAPCTT) celebrates the milestone that marks the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** since the establishment of the present physical location on September 15, 1975. Over the last months, '**Encountering ... the Archives**' have shared information with you to '**KNOW THE CAPCTT**'. As this achievement is commemorated, the question can again be asked,

### Does the PCTT need the Archives?

Archiving or simply record keeping and storage or Record Management commenced with the Presbyterian presence of the Church of Scotland (COS) in Trinidad - their first congregation and church Port of Spain dating 1836 and San Fernando dating 1845 and their first presbytery dating 1845. This continued with the Portuguese Madeiran in 1834, the Americans at Iere Village, Princes Town in 1843, and the Canadians' Mission (CM) to the East Indians in 1868 and with the PCTT to the present time. In Tobago, a COS presence in 1813.

The value of the CAPCTT is not only to the PCTT, boards and committees, but each member and individual, extending into all the PCTT where the impact and influence and inspiration of the PCTT by the CM, PCC and others have changed and added value to the lives of the citizens and nation of Trinidad and Tobago, extending further into the global diaspora, where the culture and traditions, moral, ethical and social values of first, religion and evangelism and second the CM education system in Trinidad which changed the then existing delivery of education and influenced the experiences of especially primary and secondary school education, Teacher and Theological training.

Can the CAPCTT be – **1. core to the network of archives** at each church and school, Synod and Presbytery and the boards and committees within the PCTT – a place of history, tradition, where the old never grow old nor age, where the antique increases in value and adds to the lives of the old, the young and those yet to come. **2. a checkpoint/touchpoint** – PCTT's leadership and administration - constitution, practices, procedures, policies as precedence. **3. a specialized ministry** – towards archival studies ... with trained increased staff and personnel where development begins internally. **4. a research and study centre** – for institutions, church personnel and family accessible for appreciation and learning.

The CAPCTT is restructuring the categories/ types of archival documentation as per the Repository, the Museum and the Archival Library.

**The CAPCTT expresses sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to the continued development of the "ARCHIVES", especially since its physical establishment in 1975.**

*An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself.*

*The Archives are opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.*

*Call to arrange a visit. Contact: 652-4829 [Synod Office] and 653-4166 [SATC Library] Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo 788-2685*



# AGRI FACTS COLUMN

## LEARNING ABOUT FOOD

SUBMITTED BY RAYANNA BOODRAM

[rayannaboodram@hotmail.com](mailto:rayannaboodram@hotmail.com) GREEN CARIBBEAN MAGAZINE September 2025 <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15GEUsBdLR/>

Agriculture isn't just about farmers in the fields, it's about innovation, creativity, and learning by doing. For our students, hands-on agricultural projects are a great way to understand where food comes from, how nature works, and how they can play a role in building a sustainable future. It is important that we continuously teach our children how to grow their own food. This school term, when your child must choose a project (science or business) why not try an agricultural one! Let's examine three agricultural projects that students of any age can try and succeed at.

The first, easiest and most rewarding project is planting a small garden. Students can work together to grow vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, sweet peppers, or herbs like chive and thyme. This encourages teamwork, responsibility, and plant care. It also teaches the children the value of food by helping them to understand the importance of clean and safe food consumption. The harvest can supply the school's kitchen or be sold as a mini agribusiness project amongst the students.

The second is building a miniature hydroponics system. With just a plastic bottle, some string, and nutrient solution (available at a garden shop), students can build their own mini hydroponics system. This method grows plants in water instead of soil, showing students how farmers save space and water while producing food. The students will need to cut a plastic bottle in half, top for plant, bottom for water.

Next, insert a cotton wick through the bottle cap to pull up water followed by filling the bottom with nutrient solution (water and fertilizer).

Next, they will place the top half upside down into the bottom half and add a seedling and growing medium (like cocopeat, gravel, or perlite). The system is very low maintenance where they can place it in sunlight, refill nutrients every few days, and change solution every 2 to 3 weeks. This project teaches the students the science of plant nutrition, water conservation, and innovation and it is an excellent STEM project that ties into science and technology lessons.

The final is to start a compost heap. Instead of throwing away food scraps from the cafeteria, students can turn waste into fertilizer. By building a compost bin or pile, they recycle organic waste into nutrient-rich soil for gardens. The students will learn early concepts of waste management, sustainability, and soil science which teaches the importance of reducing landfill waste while supporting a circular economy.

Agricultural projects are not only fun but also educational and empowering. They help students develop life skills, connect with nature, and even explore future careers in agriculture, agribusiness, or environmental science. Whether it's planting a seed or recycling waste into compost, these projects show students that agriculture is truly about growing more than food but about growing futures.



## VACANCY

### Communications Manager (Full-Time) Contract Position

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Be a Confirmed member of the PCTT
- A Degree in Communication, Social Sciences or related
- At least 5 years Experience in the field
- Understanding of the function and policies of the PCTT



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<https://www.pctt.org.tt/category/vacancies/>  
Send applications with resume by email to :  
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Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted

# HONOURING OUR HERITAGE: CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS AT KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by Sian Karamath- Chung, Knox Local Board Member

Grandparents' Day at Knox Presbyterian Church was a heartfelt celebration held on Sunday, July 27th, 2025. A special service was held honoring the vital role grandparents and elders play in both family and faith. The event was more than just recognition; it was a moving tribute to the legacy, wisdom, and spiritual guidance passed down through generations.

The service began with a beautiful acrostic presentation by the Sunday School and Youth Group which highlighted the meaning behind the word "Grandparents." The church was filled with warmth and love as members of the youth group sang a special song dedicated to grandparents, their voices sincere and powerful.

Adding a joyful element to the service was Mr. Jason Sammy, an Elder of the church, who delivered a lively and humorous monologue that had the entire congregation laughing from beginning to end. Mr. Sammy who was dressed as a grandfather spoke about the importance of prayer. Also, he added that the elders should teach the younger ones how to pray. This mix of fun and reverence captured the spirit of the day perfectly.

The deeper message of the day focused on the spiritual impact grandparents have in passing down Christian values and traditions. Citing Luke 11 and Proverbs 17:6, the service reflected on the prayers, stories, and unwavering faith that grandparents instill in the younger generations. These elders serve as a vital link between past and present, helping to shape the spiritual lives of their families.

An anointment ceremony led by Reverend Damien Siuenarine added a sacred touch as grandparents and elders as well as other members of the congregation received special prayers for healing, comfort and overcoming challenges.

In every element—from song and sermon to laughter and prayer—Grandparents' Day served as a powerful reminder of the enduring love, sacrifice, and spiritual leadership that grandparents bring to our lives. Special thanks to all those who made this sentimental service possible.

To God be the glory.





# HONOURING OUR ROOTS: A GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION AT WATERLOO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next; they will proclaim your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4).*

On Sunday 27th July 2025, the Waterloo Presbyterian Church was filled with warmth, and the unmistakable love of family as the congregation gathered to celebrate Grandparents' Day. With the theme: "Faith passed down through generations," the service was a poignant reminder of the enduring legacy of grandparents, who are our spiritual anchors, storytellers and the living testimonies of God's faithfulness.

The morning began with the Waterloo Church Choir setting the tone through a soul-stirring introit, their harmonies lifting hearts. The Call to Worship echoed the day's purpose to honour those who have sown seeds of faith, love and wisdom in our lives.

We sang hymns like "For the Beauty of the Earth" (No. 434) and "O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea" (No. 432), which resounded through the sanctuary, the timeless lyrics indeed a tribute to God's creation and the generations He has knit together. The Scripture readings were taken from Psalm 71:17-18 and 2nd Timothy 1:5. Rev. Errol Ragnauth, Minister of the Chase Village Pastoral Region, led the service with pastoral grace, weaving prayers of adoration, confession and thanksgiving into the fabric of the worship. His sermon, "A Legacy of Love," anchored in Deuteronomy 4:9 was a heartfelt charge to both grandparents and younger generations:

1. Grandparents as Keepers of Wisdom – He highlighted the "crown of splendour" (Proverbs 16:31) that comes with age, urging grandparents to share their stories of God's faithfulness.
2. Bridges Between Generations – Like the psalmist (Psalm 78:4), grandparents connect us to our past while pointing us to the future.
3. Models of Unconditional Love – Rev. Ragnauth evoked laughter and tears as he described grandparents' patient, sacrificial love—often expressed through food, some loose change and endless prayers.
4. A Legacy of Faith – The greatest inheritance, he reminded us, is not material but spiritual: a life rooted in Christ.

The choir's anthem, carefully selected for the occasion, underscored the sermon's message, leaving many in the congregation visibly moved.

After the closing hymn # 703 (BoP) "Happy the Home When God Is There" and the blessings and Benediction, the celebrations continued over a shared breakfast of some favourites like saltfish buljol and pumpkin, together with choices of bake and sada roti. Laughter and memories filled the hall as grandparents, parents and children exchanged stories, testifying to the major role of elders in shaping families and faith.

This Grandparents' Day service was more than an event, it was a testimony to the Presbyterian Church's commitment to honouring our elders. As Rev. Ragnauth noted, "When we neglect our grandparents, we forget the shoulders we stand upon." The Waterloo congregation hopes this service will inspire other churches to establish Grandparents' Day as an annual event.

Let us carry this charge forward—to cherish our grandparents, learn from their wisdom and ensure that their legacy of love endures for generations to come.

*"Tell your children about it; they will tell their children, who in turn will tell the next generation" (Joel 1:3).*





# HONORING A LEGACY OF SERVICE CELEBRATING CLAUDIA RAMDHIN'S 25 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

By Ms Judyann Alfred



On a beautiful afternoon August 16 2025, family and friends gathered in joyful reverence at the Susamachar Conference Hall. Occasion - to celebrate the retirement of Claudia Ramdhin, whose 25 years of service have been marked by quiet strength, unwavering commitment, and a deep love for the mission she served at the Synod Office of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

Though the function was scheduled for 4:00 p.m., the start was gently delayed as guests mingled, exchanged stories, and basked in the warmth of shared memories — a fitting reflection of Claudia's own relational spirit. The hall was filled with laughter, hugs, and heartfelt reunions, setting the tone for an evening of celebration and gratitude.

Having worked alongside a succession of Moderators and General Secretaries of the PCTT, Claudia became a trusted constant — a steady hand and a compassionate heart. Her work was never just about tasks; it was about people, purpose, and faithfulness.

## **Tributes of Gratitude**

Throughout the evening, tributes flowed — rich with affection, admiration, and deep appreciation. Speakers, including her brother Mr Ronald Ramdhin reflected on Claudia's dedication, her grace under pressure, and her servant-hearted stewardship. Former Moderator Rev. Dr Annabell Lalla- Ramkhelawan offered a moving meditation on the attributes of true stewardship: faithfulness, accountability, humility, and a willingness to serve. These qualities, were not abstract ideals, but daily realities embodied in Claudia's life and work.

## **A Celebration in Song and Spirit**

The hall was beautifully decorated. Guests joined in heartfelt singing and were treated to a special pan rendition by Timothy Bally — a musical tribute that honored Claudia's legacy. The evening concluded with a scrumptious dinner, where stories were shared, laughter echoed, and gratitude lingered in every conversation.

## **A Gathering of Hearts**

Claudia's retirement celebration drew a wide and loving circle: her family members, her church family, friends, and past and present co-workers — all of whom had been touched by her kindness, professionalism, and unwavering support.

## **A Farewell, Not Goodbye**

This was more than a retirement function. It was a celebration of legacy — of a life lived in service, rooted in humility, and of a woman whose faithfulness has inspired all who had the privilege to work alongside her. As Claudia steps into a new chapter, we offer not just farewell, but deep thanks.

To you Claudia as you embark on this next season of your journey hold fast to the promise of Jeremiah 29:11 — that God's plans for you are filled with hope and a future. May you walk forward with confidence, knowing that your gifts will continue to bless others, and that the path ahead is already being prepared with grace, purpose, and peace.





# 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

by Sheldon Sookoo

On June 14, 2025, at 5.00 p.m. Philip Sookoo, family, relatives and friends celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Service of Thanksgiving and Praise at their residence, 1098 SS Erin Road, Debe. Mr. Sookoo is the husband of Presiding Elder Grace Sookoo.

Officiating was Rev. Dr. Keron Khellawan, Principal of St. Andrew's Theological College. The organist was Rev. Shirvan Siloch. Son, Sheldon and granddaughter, Richelle Seeram read the Scripture passages taken from Jeremiah 17:7-8 and Colossians 2: 6-7 respectively and Deaconess Jenifa Sinanan said the Prayer of Confession.

In his inspiring message based on the theme "ROOTED" Reverend Dr. Khellawan, introduced his message with, "If ever you look at a tree you will see the beauty of its leaves and fruits but we don't often see the roots that grow deep." He highlighted the following:

1. Roots speak to generational blessings. Do you know who prayed for you as a child? Many persons do not realize blessings carry generationally.
2. Roots are not only familial but community and faith based. Roots of faith are what is spoken of in the text and shows that how we act and move are reflections of faith and community. Reverend Khellawan made reference to the family's love, dedication and commitment to God and deep involvement in the Church.
3. The key as we celebrate, remarked Reverend Khellawan is to remember all of us have roots but we now have to not only celebrate the roots we came from but plant roots for the next generation to be blessed by.

He concluded with the words, "As we celebrate 80 years of your life, Philip, remember the roots planted and allow them to stabilize you for the time to come and continue to give God praise and thanks for preserving and extending your life for the past eighty years with good health and strength."

As a tribute to their grandfather, the grandchildren sang their version of "Because You Loved Me" by Celine Dion to honour him. The Chairman of the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation, a former primary school student of Mr. Sookoo - Mr. Gautam Maharaj; Mayor of the Borough of Siparia - Mr. Doodnath Meyhroo; relatives and close friends spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Sookoo and the family's contribution to the community by way of employment and to the society as a whole and their generosity towards the needy. In his reply, Mr. Sookoo thanked God for preserving and sustaining his life without any major health challenges. He thanked his wife, Grace; children and grandchildren for their love and support and for being a pillar of strength to him; and the complimentary remarks paid to him by the various speakers. Dr. Anneliese Sookoo – Seeram in the vote of thanks thanked Reverend Khellawan for his excellent and timely message, those who spoke "in very positive, complimentary and laudatory terms of their father and everyone else for being present to celebrate the life and achievement of this great milestone in the life of their father and grandfather. She invited all to partake in the dinner and entertainment.



  
*Moments*  
OF INSPIRATION  
MONDAYS | 8:30 A.M. | 

# CELEBRATING FAITH AND SERVICE – ELDER MARIANNE NANDLAL-MOHAN INDUCTED AT CUREPE PRES CHURCH

by Joy Ramlogan

Reverend Emmanuel Ramdeen officiated at the induction of a new elder of the Curepe Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Marianne Nandlal-Mohan, on Sunday August 03, 2025. Before the congregation, which included her family and friends, Mrs. Nandlal-Mohan vowed to serve God's church and people in this important role of leadership in the Presbyterian Church. Reverend Ramdeen entrusted Mrs. Nandlal-Mohan with the duties and responsibilities of eldership and led the congregation in prayer for the discharge of her eldership in keeping with the mission of the church. Ms. Nandlal-Mohan reflected, "To be an elder for me means service to God first and foremost and service to humanity always."

First time elder, Mrs. Nandlal-Mohan, was originally an active member in Brothers Presbyterian Church. She continued her dedicated service at the Curepe Presbyterian Church. She served as Secretary of the Local Board, and is currently a member of the Local Board, Sunday School teacher in the vibrant Sunday School and on the executive of the dynamic Presbyterian Church Women's group. Always willing to support the ministry of the Church, Mrs. Nandlal-Mohan continues to demonstrate her commitment to her faith and walk in Christ's way in her engagement with congregation members. Mrs. Nandlal-Mohan is tireless and enthusiastic as she takes on the new position of elder. She is also Dean at Hillview College and the proud mother of two beautiful young daughters.

The Curepe Presbyterian Church is blessed and grateful to have Mrs. Nandlal-Mohan taking up her leadership role and demonstrating her love and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Reverend Ramdeen, Elder Nandlal-Mohan with Elders of the Curepe Pres Church.



Elder Nandlal-Mohan serving communion

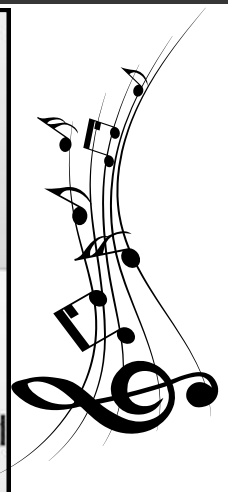




**Philip Seesahai**  
**Tribute Concert**  
*Celebrating the legacy of his music*  
**\$150**  
Snack Box included  
Contact Local Board members for tickets  
Proceeds go to the upgrade of the Church Hall

Curepe Presbyterian Church  
**Saturday**  
**Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**Showtime**  
**5:30p.m.**

Featuring a  
Splendid mix of  
Beautiful Vocals and  
Instrumentals





# SAN JUAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT A GLANCE !



MOTHERS DAY 2025



FATHERS DAY 2025

## 1. “LOVE IS BREWING” Tea Party and Fundraiser

On Saturday, July 6th, the Women’s Group of the San Juan Presbyterian Church hosted a heartwarming Tea Party and Fundraiser under the theme “Love is Brewing.” The well-attended afternoon was filled with live serenading, beautiful music, and the joyful murmur of conversation over cups of tea. Guests enjoyed warm fellowship while supporting a meaningful cause — raising funds to provide school supplies for children in need. It was truly an afternoon steeped in love, generosity, and community spirit.

## 2. Celebrating Mothers and Fathers at San Juan Presbyterian Church

This year, the San Juan Presbyterian Church joyfully celebrated Mother’s Day and Father’s Day with love, appreciation, and heartfelt thanks. On Mother’s Day, each mother present received a special token of appreciation, a small but meaningful reminder of the love and value they bring to their families and the church community. Father’s Day was marked with equal warmth, as every father was presented with a gift in recognition of their guidance, strength, and care. Both occasions were filled with smiles, gratitude, and the shared joy of honouring the remarkable parents among us.

## 3. Youth Service at San Juan Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, June 30th, San Juan Presbyterian Church joyfully marked Youth Sunday with spirited worship led by our regional youth band. This talented group, officially formed on January 19th, 2025, was brought together through the vision of Deaconess Anupa Nanani, who sought to inspire young people in the region to deepen their connection with the church through music and worship. Comprising members who already owned their instruments, the band members balance busy full-time jobs with regular practice sessions.

Most members — Karishma, Michael, Marc, Aniel, and Glen — come from our region, while Daniel, Ryan, and Rolando join us from outside the area.

Their uplifting music was more than just a performance; it was a heartfelt call encouraging youth to actively participate and grow within our church community.

During the Youth Sunday service, several youth members took on important leadership roles. Karishma Pargarsingh delivered the sermon, while Roshan Pargarsingh led the Prayers of Adoration, Confession, and Offertory. Scripture readings were done by Sanjay Pargarsingh and Daniel Mendez, and the pastoral prayer was led by Nigel, the Youth Coordinator. Megan Pancham concluded the prayers with a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving. Their active participation showcased the vibrant spiritual engagement of our youth community.

## 4. San Juan Presbyterian Church Hosts CCTT Prayer Breakfast

San Juan Presbyterian Church hosted the Christian Council of Trinidad and Tobago’s Prayer Breakfast themed: “Celebrating Our Common Faith.” Representatives from various churches—including Moravian, AME, Methodist, Salvation Army, and Eastern Orthodox—gathered for a morning of prayer and fellowship. The event featured opening prayers, a welcome from Reverend Gail Meridin (AME), praise led by multiple denominations, and an inspiring message from Major Chris Matthias (Salvation Army). Prayers focused on national issues, unity, and youth, concluding with a singspiration and closing remarks. The breakfast was a heartfelt celebration of faith and unity across Trinidad and Tobago’s Christian community.



WOMENS GROUP TEA PARTY & FUNDRAISER



WOMENS GROUP TEA PARTY & FUNDRAISER



CCTT PRAYER BREAKFAST

**THE PCTT BOARD OF MEN**  
**LAITY SUNDAY OCTOBER 12th 2025**  
**PREACHING SCHEDULE**

	PASTORAL REGION & CHURCH	SERVICE TIME	PERSON CONDUCTING WORSHIP
	<b>NORTHERN PRESBYTERY</b>		
1)	<u>SAN JUAN/SANTA CRUZ/WOODBROOK:</u>		
1)	San Juan Presbyterian Church	7:30 a.m.	Mr. Garry Soomarah
2)	Santa Cruz Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Garry Soomarah
3)	Woodbrook Presbyterian Church	10:30 a.m.	Mr. Ainsley Luutchan
2)	<u>ARAMALAYA:</u>		
4)	Tacarigua Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Shawn Mahase
5)	Aramalaya Presbyterian Church	7:45 a.m.	P.E. Dr. George Sammy
6)	Warrenville Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Rohan Riki
7)	Kelly Village Presbyterian Church	10:30 a.m.	Mr. Terrence Kailoo
8)	Tobago Presbyterian Church	4:00 p.m.	Mr. Robert Sagar/Amish Bahadoorsingh
3)	<u>ARIMA:</u>		
9)	Arima Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	St. Charles Men's Group/ Mr. Andre Thompson
10)	Valencia Presbyterian Church	8:45 a.m.	Mr. Sunil Ramkarran
11)	San Carlos Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Russel Gyan/ Mr. Vinod Sooknanan
12)	St. Helena Presbyterian Church	10:30 a.m.	P.E. Jason Ogeer
4)	<u>GUAICO:</u>		
13)	Caratal Presbyterian Church	6:30 a.m.	Mr. Reynold Parey
14)	Cumuto Presbyterian Church	6:00 a.m.	Mr. Derrick Sooknanan
15)	Cunaripo Presbyterian Church	8:00 a.m.	P.E. Dr. Reynold Baldeosingh
16)	Jubilee Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Derrick Sooknanan
17)	Morton Presbyterian Church (Guaico)	9:30 a.m.	P.E. Dr. Reynold Baldeosingh
5)	<u>SANGRE CHIQUITO:</u>		
18)	Grosvenor Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Kenrick Cumberbatch
19)	Sangre Chiquito Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Clarence Bharath
20)	Plum Road Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Lawrence Herman
21)	Fishing Pond Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Radcliffe Dookie/Mr. Larry Sookalsingh
22)	Plum Mitán Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Lawrence Herman
6)	<u>CUREPE/ST. JOSEPH:</u>		
23)	Caroni Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Stefan Wilson
24)	Maracas Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Johan Dharoo
25)	St. Joseph Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Aryn Bailey
26)	Latchu Memorial (Bamboo)	8:30 a.m.	Anthony Sampath/Aramalaya Men's Fellowship
27)	Curepe Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Christopher Morgan

7)	<u>CHAGUANAS:</u>			
28)	St.Charles Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.		Mr. Elijah Motieram
29)	Cunupia Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.		Mr. Robert Ramsahai
30)	Robinson Memorial (Longdenville) Presbyterian Church	7:30 a.m.		Mr. Mohan Bhagan
31)	Las Lomas Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Terry Mohammed
32)	Felicity Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Darryl Jaggernath
8)	<u>CHASE VILLAGE:</u>			
33)	Waterloo Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Garvin Gilbert
34)	Bank Village Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Dexter Rampersad
35)	Nistar Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.		Mr. Rodney Ragoonanan
36)	Calcutta Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Tyabali Ali-Khan
9)	<u>SOUTH-CENTRAL</u>			
	<u>COUVA:</u>			
37)	Mc Bean Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Randy Mangroo
38)	Knox Presbyterian Church	8:00 a.m.		Anniversary service
39)	Balmain Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Randy Mangroo
40)	Indian Trail Presbyterian Church	9:30 a.m.		Mr. Curtis Dindial
10)	<u>CLAXTON BAY:</u>			
41)	Carolina Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Venoo Randhanie
42)	Ebenezer Presbyterian Church	7:30 a.m.		Mr. Daniel Jacob
43)	California Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Susamachar Men's Fellowship
44)	Mizpah Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.		Mr. Daniel Jacob
45)	Esperanza Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.		Mr. Venoo Randhanie
11)	<u>MARABELLA/BONNEAVENTURE:</u>			
46)	Marabella Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Jesse Pulwarty
47)	Bonne Adventure Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Damien Surujbally
48)	Reform Presbyterian Church	7:30 a.m.		Mr. Terrance Mohamed
49)	Trinity Presbyterian Church (Gasparillo)	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Jesse Pulwarty
50)	Mayo Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Damien Surujbally
51)	Ben Lomond Presbyterian Church	8:45 a.m.		Mr. Terrance Mohamed
12)	<u>SUSAMACHAR:</u>			
51)	Susamachar Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Rev. Errol Ragnauth
52)	Vistabella Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		P.E. Krishna Persad
53)	Grant Lal Behari Memorial (Corinth)	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Andrew Neemai
54)	Gokonda Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.		P.E. Krishna Persad
55)	Susamachar Presbyterian Church	5:00 p.m.		P.E. Mikey Bedassie



<b>13)</b>	<b>LA ROMANE/DEBE:</b>			
56)	Emmanuel Presbyterian Church (La Romaine)	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Nigel Mohammed	
57)	Debe Presbyterian Church	7:30 a.m.	Mr. Roger Ali	
58)	Canaan Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Ronald Mootoo	
59)	Esperance Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Roger Ali	
60)	St. Agnes Prebyterian Church (Hermitage)	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Ravesh Balramsingh	
<b>14)</b>	<b>PENAL:</b>			
61)	Penal Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	P.E. Ashford Tamby	
62)	Mendez Presbyterian Church	8:00 a.m.	Mr. Michael Boodram	
63)	Penal Rock Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	P.E. Ashford Tamby	
64)	Divine Rock Presbyterian Church	9:30 a.m.	Mr. Mikhail Lochan	
65)	Quinam Mission Statement	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Reno Siloch	
<b>15)</b>	<b>SIPARIA:</b>			
66)	Erin Road Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Alvin Neemai	
67)	Akashbani Presbyterian Church (Siparia)	8:00 a.m.	Mr. Roydon Rampersad	
68)	San Francique Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Stafford Seales	
<b>16)</b>	<b>ORPOUCHE:</b>			
69)	Morning Star Presbyterian Church	6:30 a.m.	Mr. Roy Umraw	
70)	Eternal Light Presbyterian Church	8:00 a.m.	Mr. Alex Tamby	
71)	Rousillac Presbyterian Church	9:30 a.m.	Anniversary Service	
<b>17)</b>	<b>POINT FORTIN/CEDROS:</b>			
72)	Guapo Presbyterian Church	6:30 a.m.	Mr. Gerard De Gannes	
73)	Cedros Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Ian Gobin	
74)	Salazar Trace Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Thakur Kanhai	
75)	Coromandel Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Ian Gobin	
76)	Point Fortin Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Gerard De Gannes	
77)	Point Coco Presbyterian Church	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Randolph Singh	
<b>18)</b>	<b>SOUTH EASTERN PRESBYTERY</b>			
	<b>DIAMOND:</b>			
78)	Lower Barrackpore Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Kenny Arjoon	
79)	Diamond Presbyterian Church	7:15 a.m.	Mr. Keron Ganpat	
80)	Transfer Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Keron Ganpat	
81)	Krist Mandli Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Kenny Arjoon	
<b>19)</b>	<b>BARRACKPORE:</b>			
82)	Borde Narve Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Christopher John	
83)	Clarke Rochard Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Mikah Baksh	
84)	Barrackpore Union Presbyterian Church (Upper Barrackpore)	8:00 a.m.	Mr. Nick Ramsarran	
85)	Lengua Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Christopher John	
86)	Rochard Douglas Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Mikah Baksh	

<b>20)</b>	<b>RIVERSDALE:</b>			
87)	Morichal Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		P.E. Roy Ramlogan
88)	Poonah Presbyterian Church (St. Georges)	8:00 a.m.		Piparo Men's Fellowship
89)	Brothers Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		P.E. Roy Ramlogan
90)	Riversdale Presbyterian Church	9:30 a.m.		Piparo Men's Fellowship
<b>21)</b>	<b>TABAQUITE:</b>			
91)	Piparo Presbyterian Church	6:30 a.m.		Mr. Hamilton Ramoular
92)	Jeffers (24mile) Presbyterian Church	8:00 a.m.		Mr. Stephen Hansraj & Mr. Stephen Mahabir
93)	Flanagin Town Presbyterian Church	8.00a.m.		Mr. Andy Samaroo
94)	Star of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church (Tabaquite)	9.30a.m.		Mr. Andy Samaroo
95)	Torrib Trace Presbyterian Church	9:30 a.m.		Mr. Barry Baliram
<b>22)</b>	<b>PRINCES TOWN:</b>			
96)	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Wayne Maicoo
97)	Mc Donald Presbyterian Church (Jordan Hill)	7:30 a.m.		Mr. Kurt Paul
98)	Iere Village Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Wayne Maicoo
99)	St.Mary's Presbyterian Church	9:30 a.m.		Mr. Elias Jaggai
<b>23)</b>	<b>TABLELAND:</b>			
100)	St. James Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Harry Partap
101)	Poole Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Nickcolas Mitchell
102)	New Century Presbyterian Church	8:30 a.m.		Mr. Edmund Pragsingh
103)	St. Julien Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.		Mr. Christian Dookhoo
<b>24)</b>	<b>NARIVA/MAYARO:</b>			
104)	Rio Claro Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Ronald Babooram
105)	Ecclesville Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Nariva/Mayaro Men's Fellowship
106)	Mafeking Presbyterian Church	9:00 a.m.		Mr. Brian Saney
107)	Biche Presbyterian Church	7:00 a.m.		Mr. Michael Cooper-Ochiengh
108)	Navet Presbyterian Church	8:45 a.m.		Mr. Michael Cooper-Ochiengh

# THE BOARD OF MEN

## OF THE

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO




# RIO CLARO PRESBYTERIAN 107TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

By Sarah Bharat

On July 6th, 2025, the Rio Claro Presbyterian Church celebrated its 107th anniversary following the theme of "Enduring in Hope, Rising in Faith" inspired by the scripture reading of the day, Isaiah 40:31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." Special guest, Rev. Stephen Harripersad, Chair of the South-Eastern Presbytery and Minister of the Diamond Pastoral Region, guided a full house of worshipers through a service of thanksgiving and celebration. In preparation for the day, members of the congregation came together for a church clean-up day full of power washing the grounds, cleaning chairs, wiping windows, and more. Highlights from the Sunday morning service include an anthem performed by the church's choir, a brief history of the church delivered by Ms. Merlene Persad, a liturgical dance by Ms. Nelisha Mohammed to the song, "Holy Forever," and a powerful sermon by Rev. Stephen Harripersad. In his message, Rev. focused on three points: the power of enduring hope, the strength found in rising in faith and the witness of a thankful church. A short program was conducted by the Chairperson of the Local Board, Mrs. Jemma Persad, during which plaques of appreciation were presented to Mr. Michael Bharat & family and Mr. Mohammed Khan & family for their dedication and commitment to the church, as well as Rev. Stephen Harripersad by Elder and Choir Mistress, Mrs. Glenna Sooknanan. Following these events was the cutting of the anniversary cake by Senior Elders, Ms. Joyce Persad and Mr. Ashmid Khan, along with a slideshow highlighting the special events throughout 2024-2025 done by Ms. Sarah Bharat. After the service, the church family was invited to the hall for a home-cooked breakfast provided by various members.

"Today is not a date on the calendar, but it is a spiritual checkpoint" - Rev. Stephen Harripersad





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**Sociology for Church Leaders**  
Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Keron Khellawan  
Start Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Day: Monday | Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm


**Constitution of the P.C.T.T**  
Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Keron Khellawan  
Start Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Day: Tuesday | Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm

**Ecumenical Theology: Theory & Praxis**  
Lecturer: Mr. Stefan Jerome Wilson  
Start Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Day: Wednesday | Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm

**Homiletics I**  
Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Annabell Ramkelawan & Rev. Sanya Beharry  
Start Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Day: Thursday | Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm

**New Testament Greek**  
Lecturer: Rev. Adrian Sieunarine  
Start Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Day: Friday | Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm

**ACADEMIC  
YEAR  
2025/2026  
SEMESTER I**



Register by :30<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
Duration: 12 weeks | Credits :3 (per course)  
Cost : \$1,500.00 (per course)  
Registration: \$500.00 (per semester)

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT ST. AUGUSTINE

A unique opportunity to rent a two-storey commercial building ideally located next to AVI Apartments in St. Augustine, adjacent to Starbucks and just a short walk from the University of the West Indies (UWI) north entrance.

This prime location offers high visibility, convenient access to all amenities, and is close to shopping areas, making it ideal for office or business use.

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Email: [property.manager@pctt.org.tt](mailto:property.manager@pctt.org.tt)

Phone: 652-4829 (Synod's Office)



# A CENTURY OF GRACE: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND LEGACY

by Mrs. Rachael Boodoo-Rahim

On July 5th, 2025, a wave of emotion and pride swept through the congregation as we marked the 100th anniversary of our beloved church, Mafeking Presbyterian Church, located in the Nariva/Mayaro Pastoral Region, and which held its very first service on July 5th, 1925. The day was filled with gratitude, nostalgia, and reverence as we reflected on a century of unwavering faith, spiritual growth, and communal love.

From its earliest beginnings under a cocoa house on the Mafeking Main Road, the church has grown into a strong and beautiful concrete sanctuary, with a vibrant congregation – a testimony to the dedication and resilience of the congregation. Every corner of the building speaks to the prayers, sacrifices, and hope of those who came before us.

This commemorative service was the **Launch of our Centennial Year**, and most significant at that service was the History of the Church and its movements throughout the last century. Our Local Board Chairman, Mr. Carl Rajkumar, read the captivating history and outlined how the church progressed from that first service held on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1925, by Reverend Colin Pragsingh, under that cocoa house, to other locations, including a carat shed, to our present location, in our beautiful sanctuary on Logwood Trace. Chairman Carl also highlighted the contributions of the many notable church workers and leaders of the past hundred years, and all the hard working members who kept the vision of a church in Mafeking, alive.

Our special guest speaker, Elder Eddie Pragsingh (from Navet Presbyterian Church), and the grandson of Rev Colin Pragsingh, had the congregation mesmerized with recounts of his grandfather's work in our Region, from those days when a horse-and-buggy were the only means of transport and when he had to preach his sermons to the indentured labourers in Mafeking, in Hindi.

One of the most touching moments of that Special Service was the unveiling of the **Centennial Banner** emblazoned with our theme **"Celebrating our past, Embracing our future"**, done by Christian Rampaul, the great-grandson of Mr James Sankar from the 1940s congregation and Lejay Rajkumar, great-grandson of the late Elder Boyo Rajkumar(1960s congregation).

As the Banner was slowly revealed, smiles lit up the tear-streaked faces of our members in the congregation. It was more than just a banner, for it was a visual representation of our shared story, our trials, our triumphs, and our future!

The celebration was further enhanced with a poem beautifully written and perfectly fitting for the occasion entitled, **"A Century of Grace"** by our PCW. Their words echoed through the sanctuary, stirring hearts and drawing tears as they captured the spirit of remembrance and hope. Commemorative Bookmarks were given to all families as a reminder of this day.

Presiding Elder Martin Sahadath led the service with powerful words of thanksgiving, reflection, and vision, urging all present to carry the mantle forward with faith and courage. As the echoes of hymns and laughter faded, one feeling lingered—a deep sense of pride and joy to belong to this prestigious, refined church family that has so faithfully served the Lord for 100 years. With hearts full of gratitude and eyes set firmly on what's ahead, we committed ourselves to continuing this sacred journey—celebrating our past by honoring the foundation laid for us, and embracing our future with hope, unity, and purpose.



# PRAISE & WORSHIP AT PENAL PASTORAL REGION

## “ENTER HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE FOR THE LORD IS GOOD!”

by Carmileté Mohan- Elder, Penal Pastoral Session



The five beacons of the Penal Pastoral Region (Penal, Rock Road, Mendez/Scotts, Divine Rock and the Quinam Mission Station) converged on the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2025 at the Penal Rock Presbyterian Church. Members eagerly entered the Lord's house with hearts full of praise because He has and always will be good to us.

The programme was replete with songs rendered by the various choirs- the Penal Presbyterian Church Choir and the Penal Rock Worship Team. Every heart was especially touched by the brave and talented youths of the Quinam Mission Station who delivered an unforgettable rendition of their unique version of “Fill my cup, Lord”. The congregational chorus pervaded the air with deep, soulful hallelujahs and hymns all led by the ‘hype-man’, Rev. Kelvin Sookhansingh, and the able accompaniment of star guitarist, Mr. Neil Forgenie, melodic drummer, Aiden Boodram and experienced organist, Mrs. Myrtle Buckridan, who collectively created the atmosphere of reverence and awe of our great and wonderful Creator.

Meaningful and much needed prayers were offered by various members from across the region who interceded on behalf of our nation, the national church, the pastoral region, home and family life and victims of crime, violence and home invasions. The pinnacle of the entire gathering was the sermon delivered by the region's immediate former Minister, the dynamic, Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar. Her moving message reminded listeners that we can come to the Lord, broken or whole, crying or rejoicing, at anytime, anywhere because God is forever good.

As the darkness of dusk descended, when the congregation thought that they had been filled, the Holy Spirit exploded with light, love and humility within each heart, as members approached the chancel for an altar call. Persons desirous of prayer were anointed by Reverend Sookhansingh, Deaconess Marlene Seenathsingh and Mrs. Louella Ramsingh. This was followed by uplifting prayers from Reverend Thompson-Jimdar and Reverend Radica Moonoo during which the choirs repeated a pore-raising intonement in the background.

This service of praise and worship has truly set the bar for subsequent gatherings. It brought together the entire region in faith and fellowship and showcased the devotion and willingness to serve God. Conviction in Christ was reignited like a burning torch- a flame that would shine for all to see Jesus through the fervent worship and witness of the Penal Pastoral Region.

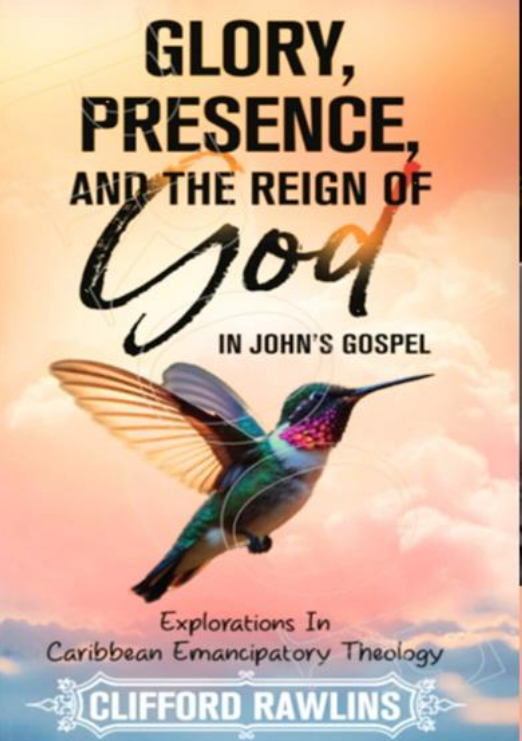



In evangelical circles, the Gospel of John is generally commended as the book to read to gain an introduction into to the Christian faith. It is of an intensely personal and spiritual nature, yet, it is written in a highly philosophical Greek argumentative style, from the very resonance of its opening appeal to reason and logic in the Prologue.

This work seeks to focus on the 'signs of glory' in John; several miraculous experiences that are not recorded in either Matthew, Mark, or Luke, but which are unique to John.


It is tinged, inevitably, with the brush of a Caribbean contextual theology, as present-day theologians come once again to grapple with the realities of selfhood and identity, and identification with the local landscape on which our forebears were rerooted from ancestral lands, in a new and generally hostile milieu, out of which have further come new ways of seeing and being.

The overarching theme, found in Jn. 1: 14, of the Word taking on human flesh and nature and dwelling among us as one of us, is examined through five of the seven signs, along with various sub-themes also mined from the Prologue, namely: the changing of water into wine, the healing of the paralytic, the feeding of the five thousand, the healing of the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. The Prologue is not merely the opening words of a piece of work; it operates here as the 'fount of all honour', as it were, from which every theme and issue in the gospel flows. It tells us what will be discussed.

- The Rev'd. Clifford Rawlins, Author of *A Theology of Carnival and Other Provocations*

**NEW BOOK LAUNCH**  
**10.30am**  
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 Limited seating available.  
 Contact also for online link in due course.



In the classic Aristotelian argumentative style it lays the foundation of the evangelist's thesis pivoted on that verse 14, and throughout the gospel and more particularly as concerns us here, in these five signs, the thesis and one or more of its sub-themes are presented and discussed, the antithesis argued, in which problems that arise from the thesis are examined; the critical word on which the thesis

The author, The Reverend Clifford Rawlins, is a Minister of Word and Sacraments, ordained by the Church of Scotland in 1997, and is now the Minister of the Diego Martin United Church, the only fully ecumenical congregation in Trinidad and Tobago, founded in 1969 by Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, and Presbyterian churches. His theological formation began at St. Andrew's Theological College, San Fernando, where he graduated at the top of his class, and which he regards as having been a world class theological grounding. He has also been a lecturer in Biblical and Systematic Theology with the Codrington College Extra Mural Diploma in Theology since 2003, under the astute leadership of The Very Rev'd. Dr. Knolly Clarke and is also a founder and governing member of the Sehon Goodridge Theological Society. In 2007, Reverend Rawlins won second prize in the Georges Lombard International Essay Competition by the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

# "WHY GRATITUDE?"

DR LESTER GOETZ, ELDER AT SUSAMACHAR CHURCH

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(868) 483-2384 (BETH).

Please do share. Thank you for your understanding.

Our Church Always Includes A Prayer of Thanksgiving. Why? Gratitude Is A Command! Not A Suggestion. Give Thanks In All Circumstances For This The Will Of God In Christ Jesus For You (1 Thess 5:16-18) God's Will. A Command From God. If You Love Me You Will Obey My Commands (John 14:15). Jesus Set The Example And Gave Thanks Before He Fed The Multitude (Matt 14:13-21) And Again At The Last Supper (Matt 26:27).

## A STORY:

There Was A Story Of A Rich Man Who Heard A Noise Outside His Home. He Saw A Poor Man Digging Through His Garbage Bin. "Thank God I Am Not Poor." The Poor Man Then Saw A Crazy Man As He Walked. "Thank God I Am Not Mad." The Mad Man Then Saw Two Paramedics Putting A Man Into An Ambulance. "Thank God I Am Not Sick." The Sick Man In Hospital Saw Two Attendants Taking A Dead Man To The Mortuary. "Thank God I Am Alive."

Three Places We All Should Visit: The Hospital, Where Health Is All We Desire, The Prison, Where Freedom Is All We Want And The Cemetery, Where We Learn To Appreciate Life.

## A RARE TRAIT:

Gratitude, Is A Very Rare Trait. Gratitude Is Appreciation. Think Of The Ten Lepers whom Jesus Healed. Only One Returned To Say Thanks. A Samaritan, An Enemy, Was Healed (Luke 17:11-19).

I Once Asked An American Professor Of Urology, "Why Do You Travel And Volunteer Your Skills To Impoverished Countries All Over The World?" He Said One Word 'Gratitude'.

It Is The Same Reason Doctors Still Work When They Should Retire, Why? Gratitude! Gratitude From Patients. Gratitude Motivates Them To Do More For Others And To Be A Blessing To Them.

## THE BEST GIFT:

One Doctor Said That The Best Gift He Has Ever Received Was A Simple, Inexpensive Thank You Card! To Him It Was More Valuable Than Even Gold And Silver. It Was Priceless!



## EGO AND PRIDE: A STORY

When Mohammed Ali, The Famous Boxer, Got Very Ill, He Said That In The Past He Called Himself 'The Greatest' But Now That He Was Ill, He HHHHHH Understood That Only God Is The 'Greatest.' He Finally Recognized The Role Of God In His Life And That He Needed To Destroy His Ego And Pride, For God Despises The Proud (James 4:6). Sometimes It Takes Illness To Recognize God.

## ENTITLEMENT:

Some People Feel That They Are Entitled To This Or That Because They Are Pretty Or Handsome, So No Need To Give Thanks. Some Have Riches And Position And Some May Be Famous, They Look Down On Others. No Gratitude.

If I Work For One Hour And I Get Paid For One Hour Then Why Should I Say Thanks? No Need. I Earned What I Worked For!

When You Receive A Gift You Naturally Give Thanks. But God Gives Us More Than We Deserve, Much More. Lord We Thank You All The Days Of Our Lives.

## HE BLESSED US:

We Did Not Deserve It. What Blessing? He Gave Us Love. It Is Divine Love, Unconditional Love, No Matter What! For God So Loved The World That He Sacrificed His Son On The Cross To Save Us From Our Sins (John 3:16). We Did Not Earn It. Thanks For The Goodness Of God. His Precious Blood Healed Us. You Have Life, You Have Hope, You Have Forgiveness, You Have His Peace And Mercy.

There Are So Many Miracles All Around Us. Einstein Once Said That God Did Not Play Dice With Nature. Nothing Is By Chance. It Is Too Precise.

You Are Blessed

You Are Anointed

You Are Chosen.

Chosen To Spread The Good News.

You Have Favour

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# A FUN-FILLED DAY - DIAMOND SPORTS

by Rev. Stephen Harripersad

On August 01, the Diamond Pastoral Region held its regional cricket match competition.

We thank God for the blessing of a beautiful day marked by clear skies and warm sunshine — the perfect setting for our friendly cricket match competition. It was a day we had all looked forward to, and it did not disappoint. From the start, there was a sense of excitement and camaraderie in the air as everyone gathered with eager anticipation for the day's events.

Special thanks must go to the organizing committee led by Mr. Marvin Rampersad who ensured that everything was well coordinated despite the short time available to prepare. The event ran smoothly from start to finish, a testament to their dedication and teamwork. The matches were thrilling, with participants bringing both competitive energy and excellent sportsmanship to the field, making it a pleasure to watch and support.

Spectators, young and old, added to the fun as they cheered passionately for their teams. The atmosphere was vibrant with laughter, applause, and moments of suspense as the games unfolded. Several players delivered remarkable performances that kept us all on the edge of our seats. In the end, while every team played impressively, we congratulate the Lower Barrackpore team for emerging as champions. Their display of skill, strength, and unity was commendable.

We are also grateful for the delightful lunch, refreshing drinks catered by the committee and the tempting desserts provided which added to the joy of the occasion. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated, making this annual event a memorable success.

Above all, we give God thanks and praise for a wonderful day filled with fellowship, fun, and unforgettable moments.

God Bless.



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TO COMMEMORATE THE 1700<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICAIA

**19TH SEPTEMBER**  
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**Meet The Orchestra**

**SAMARA (Age 16)**  
Violin - Grade 8

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**See Samara perform live at Overjoyed, a Stevie wonder Tribute, in NAPA on 22nd & 23rd November 2025**



# CHAGUANAS PASTORAL REGION ELEVATES YOUTH THROUGH FAITH AND TECHNOLOGY

by: Sherman Gokool

**"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human master." (Colossians 3:23, NIV).**

From July 21st to 24th, the Chaguanas Pastoral Region of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago hosted ELEVATE—a four-day Youth Technology and Media Training Workshop at the Cunupia Presbyterian Church. The initiative, envisioned and orchestrated by Reverend Cynara Dubé-Khan, brought together talented and enthusiastic young people from across the region for an engaging and transformative experience.

ELEVATE was not merely a workshop, but a mission to prepare our youth to serve in a world where faith and technology meet. Participants received hands-on training in graphic design, audio-visual technology, photography, videography, and social media management—skills that are increasingly vital in both professional spaces and within the modern church. Expert facilitators from each field guided the youths through dynamic sessions that blended technical skill-building with spiritual insight. The workshop also helped participants reflect on how these tools can be used to uplift worship, build community, and share the message of Christ more effectively in a digital age.

This timely event also responded to the church's evolving landscape, as many congregations continue to incorporate multimedia and online platforms into worship, outreach, and administration. The training offered through ELEVATE not only equips our young people for future careers, but also empowers them to contribute meaningfully to the life and mission of the Presbyterian Church. As we look ahead, we are inspired by the possibilities of what our youth can do when faith, creativity, and technology come together. May they continue to work with all their hearts, using every gift and skill for the glory of God.



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### SATURDAY

ECONOMICS UNIT 1:	8:30AM - 10:00 AM
SOCIOLOGY UNIT 1:	10:15AM - 11:45 AM
ACCOUNTING UNIT 2:	10:15 AM - 11:45 AM
COMMUNICATION STUDIES:	12:00PM - 1:30 PM
CARIBBEAN STUDIES:	2:00PM - 3:30 PM
MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS UNIT 1:	3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

### SUNDAY

MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS UNIT 2:	9:00AM - 10:30 AM
ECONOMICS UNIT 2:	11:00AM - 12:30 PM
CARIBBEAN STUDIES:	12:45PM - 2:15 PM
COMMUNICATION STUDIES:	2:40PM - 4:10 PM
SOCIOLOGY UNIT 2:	4:30PM - 6:00 PM

### TUESDAY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS UNIT 1: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP UNIT 1:	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
ENTREPRENEURSHIP UNIT 2:	7:45 PM - 9:00 PM

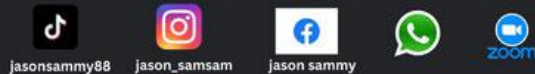
### THURSDAY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS UNIT 2: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

### FRIDAY

ACCOUNTING UNIT 1: 5:00PM - 7:00PM

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Lishan Browne

**NAPARIMA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL** **ASJA GIRLS' COLLEGE SAN FERNANDO**  
Andelle Balwah Keshma Rampersad Aveesha Rassul

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Rheanne Chanansingh Kaya Regis

**ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT SAN FERNANDO** **ST MARY'S COLLEGE**  
Celeste Smith Sheldon Yearwood

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Ms. MAKAYA HUGGINS (2022)

Every year, hundreds of students benefit from these classes by earning a scholarship or ranking on the regional C.A.P.E. merit list for various subjects.

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jason\_samsam jasonsamsammy88 Jason Sammy

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COMMUNICATION STUDIES	ECONOMICS UNITS 1 & 2
MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS UNITS 1 & 2	ENTREPRENEURSHIP UNITS 1 & 2
LAW UNITS 1 & 2	PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS UNITS 1 & 2
	ACCOUNTING UNITS 1 & 2

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794-8865 / 772-5467 / 707-0967 jason\_samsam Jason Sammy jasonsamsammy88

# A CLARION CALL: OUR YOUTH- THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH AND NATION

by Ria Seecharan, Nistar Presbyterian

The June Youth Sunday Service based on Galatians 5 offered a powerful reminder that Christ has set us free and that the fruit of the Spirit grows when we are rooted in Him. It was an appropriate message. Recent events reveal the tumult young people face in schools and society. The church is their sanctuary, a safe space, a place of encouragement, and growth. Yet, sometimes, despite our best intentions, we may unintentionally push them away through impatience, pride, resistance to change, or simply not listening closely enough. As older members, we bring the gifts of experience and tradition, but when those gifts turn into gatekeeping or dismissiveness, we risk misrepresenting the gospel's freedom - faith is transforming, not controlling.

Paul's message of freedom reminds us to live in Christ so the Spirit's fruit can grow. That fruit needs good soil, and we, the older generation, are the gardeners. This means:

- Making space for young voices and truly listening.
- Encouraging fresh ideas.
- Modelling humility, not pride.
- Mentoring instead of shutting down.

This is a clarion call to all my brothers and sisters in Christ. We cannot afford to lose our young people. They are the future of our Church and the best hope for a better tomorrow. They are the new agents of transformation. They are the ones to continue carrying the Gospel. Let us handle them with care. Let us be bold in love, generous in mentorship, and unwavering in our belief that the Spirit is at work in the next generation. If we want a Church that endures and a nation that heals, we must invest in our youth today!

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM JOY AND SORROW IN PAUL'S EPISTLES

By P E George Sammy

Here are five lessons that we can learn from the two previous articles on Joy and Sorrow in Paul's letters:

**i. Joyous Optimism** - In our Christian Life we should be Joyously Optimistic, because God will never fail. Even when we face our sternest tests, God is at our side giving us strength.

**ii. Joyful Prayer** - We must pray joyfully, because the God of Hope fills us with joy. We must rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us through God's grace.

**iii. Sorrow and Love** - Sorrow is an inevitable part of our existence, and at times it can even arise out of our great love for other people. Even in our sorrow, though, we should rejoice in our Christian Relationships.

**iv. Godly Sorrow** - Godly Sorrow brings us to repentance, which leads us to salvation.

**v. Spiritual Growth** - It is a true cause for joy when we see Spiritual Growth in ourselves and in others; but it is a cause for sorrow when people refuse to accept the Crucified and Risen Christ.

Each of these lessons can improve our lives as Christians, as Church Members and as citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

The PCTT is not a perfect organization, and there are events and occasions from time to time that bring us sorrow. These include:

- i. Dwindling congregations;
- ii. Failing levels of stewardship;
- iii. In-fighting within congregations; and
- iv. Estrangement between families.

But the PCTT also has much to be joyful about:

- i. Marriages and Baptisms;
- ii. The Ordination of new Ministers and the Installation of new Church Workers;
- iii. Successful initiatives like the Bible Study Quiz; and
- iv. The Contribution that our Church makes to the Wider Society, particularly in Education.

On balance, the PCTT can stride confidently into the future through the blessings of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Acknowledgement:** I thank my niece, Dr. Nirmala Persad, for reviewing the drafts of these three articles.



# SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION IN ACTION: BUILDING INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS AND STRONGER SUPPORT SYSTEMS (PART 2)

By: Angelica Khan

## Introduction

Following the foundational understanding of what Special Needs Education is and why it's essential, it is equally important to explore how we actively put this knowledge into practice. Inclusion is not just a concept—it's a commitment. Creating inclusive classrooms and systems requires intentional action from all stakeholders: teachers, school leaders, parents, policymakers, and the wider community.

This article expands on the foundation by discussing how to build inclusive classrooms, the importance of family involvement, the need for ongoing teacher training, and the connection between policy and practice in both local and global contexts.

## Inclusive Classrooms: More Than Just Integration

Inclusion is not simply placing a student with special needs in a mainstream classroom. It means ensuring they are truly part of the classroom experience—socially, academically, emotionally, and physically.

### Key Components of Inclusion in Action:

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Peer Interaction & Cooperative Learning
- Physical Accessibility
- Curriculum Flexibility

## Family Involvement: A Cornerstone of Student Success

A child's education does not begin and end in the classroom. Families play a vital role in reinforcing what is learned and providing emotional support.

### Ways to Strengthen the Home-School Connection:

- Regular IEP Meetings and Parent Conferences
- Parent Training Workshops
- Communication Logs or Apps
- Emotional Support for Families

## Teacher Training: The Need for Ongoing Professional Development

To serve students with special needs effectively, educators must be continually trained. In many cases, general education teachers are not adequately prepared to support students with complex learning needs.

## Core Areas for Teacher Development:

- Understanding specific disabilities and their impact on learning
- Applying inclusive teaching methods
- Managing classrooms with diverse needs
- Using assistive technologies
- Practicing cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed care

## Bridging Policy and Practice

For inclusive education to work, strong policies must support it—and be enforced. Some of the key frameworks influencing Special Needs Education include:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Education for All (EFA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4)
- Local Policies in Trinidad and Tobago

### Policy in Practice Means:

- Every school should have a trained SENCO
- IEPs should be standardized and required
- Access to therapists and multidisciplinary teams must be improved
- Schools should be monitored for inclusion outcomes

## The Role of Culture and Community in Inclusion

In the Caribbean, cultural perceptions of disability can sometimes hinder acceptance and support. Stigma, misconceptions, and lack of awareness often lead to isolation of children with special needs.

### Community-Based Strategies:

- Awareness Campaigns
- Inclusive Events
- Parent Networks

## Moving Forward: A Holistic Vision

To truly evolve Special Needs Education, we must shift from reactive support to proactive planning. This includes early diagnosis, access to specialists, community support networks, and inclusive school leadership.

### Future-Focused Goals:

- Early identification and intervention
- More scholarships for Special Education training
- National inclusive education audits
- Equitable funding for programs across regions

## Conclusion

Special Needs Education is not the responsibility of one person—it is the collective mission of a society that values dignity, potential, and equity for all. While the challenges are real, so are the opportunities for progress. By building inclusive classrooms, supporting families, investing in teacher training, and strengthening our policies, we create an educational system that truly leaves no child behind.

Let us continue the conversation, advocate for change, and work toward a future where every learner—regardless of ability—has the tools, support, and love they need to succeed.

Author: Angelica Khan

Educator/ Educational Specialist / Special Needs Educational Consultant  
Special Needs Advocate | Workshop Facilitator  
Trinidad and Tobago

# CELEBRATING ACADEMIC MILESTONES – A FAITHFUL JOURNEY

By: Candace Mahabir

**"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3).**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2025, the Iere Memorial Presbyterian Church gathered as a church family to give thanks and glory to God for the SEA, CSEC and CAPE milestones attained along the academic journeys of some of our young people. These milestones were not just personal victories, but testimonies of God's faithfulness in the lives of:



Ilyse Suphal – SEA 2025  
Elise Charles – CSEC 2024  
Chloe Rampersad – CSEC 2025  
Joshua Rampersad – CSEC 2025  
Isabelle Suphal – CSEC 2025  
Neriah Suphal – CSEC 2025  
Adrian Ramsingh – CSEC 2025  
Abigail Ramsingh – CSEC 2025  
Tia Maraj – CSEC 2025

Arshad Mohammed – CSEC 2025  
Deron Dass – CSEC 2021 & CAPE 2023  
Lexi Mahabir – CSEC 2023 & CAPE 2025  
Rueben Maraj – CSEC 2023 & CAPE 2025  
Meleisha Mangray – CSEC 2023 & CAPE 2025

Led in worship by Reverend Manan Deo, it was easy to see that when we looked at celebrating academic milestones through the lens of the morning's devotion based on Hosea 11:1–9, we recognized that it was more than just human effort. We recognized the Father's love, His unending patience, and His faithful presence through the ups and downs of learning and growth. This passage reminded us that behind every certificate and every goal reached, is a loving God who taught us to walk, lifted us in weakness, and never stopped calling us forward. Education is a gift, but wisdom is from above. It is clear that God has been at work in not only granting knowledge, but also forming character, faith, and purpose in the lives of these young people. May the Lord continue to order their steps, crown their future efforts with success, and use their knowledge for His glory.

## RIO CLARO VBS “LEARNING TOGETHER”

This July, I had the joy of assisting during Vacation Bible School at the Rio Claro Presbyterian Church where I worshipped. I worked with the little ones, guiding them as they coloured, did crafts and learned about God's love. It was heartwarming to see how open and eager they were to absorb messages about kindness, forgiveness, and faith.

At first, I thought I was simply helping with crafts but by the end of the week, I realized the Holy Spirit was working not just through me, but within me. In each small moment, whether it was answering a curious question, offering encouragement, or watching a child grasp a Bible story, I saw faith being planted and nurtured.

The theme this year was “Serve the Lord with Gladness,” and that message truly came alive for me throughout the week. In serving others, I felt spiritually renewed. VBS wasn't just for the children, it became a week of reflection and recommitment for me, too. The Spirit reminded me of the importance of childlike faith, of joy in worship, and the power of community. I left each day tired but fulfilled, knowing I was where I needed to be.

VBS reminded me that service, even in simple ways, contributes to the greater mission of spreading God's word. I felt renewed, humbled, and grateful to play a part in helping shape young hearts for Christ. The Spirit truly moved me to see how impactful love, patience, and presence can be.



# ST. CHARLES SUNDAY PRES CHURCH VBS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN JOYFULLY ANSWER THE CALL TO “SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS.”

By: Ms. Melissa Mathura

The St. Charles Presbyterian Church Annual Vacation Bible School was held during the week of Monday 14th July to Friday 18th July, 2025. Approximately fifteen (15) children participated in a spiritually enriching week filled with joyful learning, creative activities, and fellowship. The lessons outlined by BOCE were delivered by: Melissa Mathura (SS Superintendent), Orlene Nagessar, Lorena Nagir, Christine Ramkarran and Sunil Ramkarran supported by the Local Board and members of the congregation. It was a blessing to have the support of Mr. Andre Thompson (Chairman), Shirley Nagessar (Elder), and Jen Latchu (Elder). Refreshment and prizes were donated by members of the congregation.

The theme, “Serve the Lord with Gladness,” came alive through daily lessons. Day 1 focused on Samuel’s calling, with the memory verse: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” Children sang, dramatized the story and learnt the importance of hearing God’s voice. Day 2 featured Isaiah’s call, “I will go! Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8) — inspiring the children through creative crafts and joyful songs about answering God’s call. Day 3 taught the importance of humility and love in serving others, based on John 13:14, and included role-play activities that encouraged helping and caring for one another. Day 4 explored the Good Samaritan, with Luke 10:27 reminding them to “Love your neighbour as yourself.” This was brought to life through interactive games and discussions on kindness. Day 5 celebrated Peter’s restoration and Jesus’ command, “Follow me!” (John 21:9), as children crafted symbolic items and joined in uplifting worship. The week concluded with a lively Funday, where the bouncy castle brought endless smiles and laughter, a perfect end to a week filled with faith, fun and fellowship.

On Christian Education Sunday, the Sunday School children showcased all they had learnt throughout the VBS week. Vedan Van Sertima led the Order of Service with grace and poise, while the meditation was beautifully delivered by Trevanna White. The Sunday School children actively participated through scripture readings, prayers and joyful songs, reflecting all they had learnt as well as a dance presentation to the VBS theme song “Praise”, which touched the hearts of all. Trevanna closed with an inspiring message for the congregation: “So, today, I encourage you to open your hearts and say, ‘Lord, I will serve with gladness — not with reluctance, hesitation, or distraction — but with joy, excitement, and love!’” It was a perfect reminder that serving God is a privilege to be embraced with a willing and cheerful spirit.





## In Loving Memory of

**IVY  
SEEDIAL**

**Sunrise:**

**November 1, 1933**

**Sunset:**

**September 25, 2024**



One year ago God called your name, And it was your time to fly. If broke  
our hearts to watch you go, And left us wondering why? But as the  
months passed, we felt you close

Like you never really left. We feel your laughter in times of joy And hugs  
when we're distressed.

See, you never really left us, In our hearts you'll always be.

We can't look back with sadness now,

Why cry for a soul set free? This year was just the first of many That you'll  
be missed each passing day,

But we know we'll reunite in heaven

And then forever we shall stay.

*Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by your children, grandchildren,  
great grandchildren and in-laws.*

## In Loving Memory of

**Rev. Albert  
Malcolm  
Hamilton  
Bailey**

**Sunrise:**

**28<sup>th</sup> October 1962**

**Sunset :**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2015**



It has been a decade since you left, but the echo of your ministry rings  
through the community of faith. Your dedication to the Kingdom of  
God, your compassion for souls, and your unwavering faith left an  
imprint on every life you touched. You taught and shepherded so many as  
to what it means to serve with humility and love.

On this, your 10th anniversary, we remember you with great admiration  
and love for the time you devoted to guiding those called to serve and  
helping us all grow in our relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ.

Your legacy of faith continues to touch our lives, and you are dearly  
remembered.

*'Well done, good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your Lord.'  
Matthew 25:21*

## In Loving Memory of

**Joseph  
Gyan**

**Sunrise:**

**12<sup>th</sup> January 1935**

**Sunset:**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2002**



To Our Dear Pa.

Good bye pa, we had to say. So many years ago, it was the saddest day.

We remember the good times and try not to be sad.

Our memories of you still make our hearts glad.

We miss you in ways we can never express.

Our love for you will never be less.

Until our reunion, our time we will measure.

Having you for our father was our greatest treasure.

Continue to rest with your Saviour forever.

*From loving wife Elizabeth, children Bernadette,  
Timothy, Shirley and Paul. Grand children, great grands,  
in-laws, friends and relatives.*

## In Loving Memory of

**P.E Dennis  
Williams**

**Sunrise: 21st July 1949**

**Sunset: 19th August 2023**



Some people leave this world,  
but never leave our hearts.  
It's not just their absence we  
mourn, but the silence where  
their voice used to be, the  
comfort of their hugs, and  
the light they brought into  
our lives. Some losses  
echo forever.

*Forever in the  
hearts of your  
wife,  
children,  
grandchildren,  
relatives,  
and friends.*



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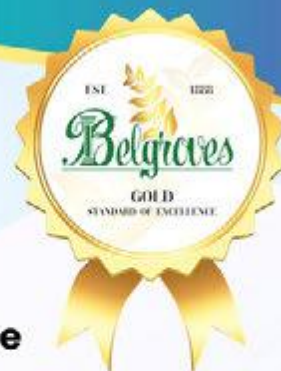

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- **Evolving traditions with modern solutions**

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convention

Saturday 25th October 2025

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, MACOYA  
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.